



**PEACE PARK RENOVATION**  
**PUBLIC MEETING**  
**Wednesday July 11, 2007 6:00-7:30 p.m.**  
UFM Meeting House

## **MEETING NOTES**

**Meeting was facilitated by** Randy Robinson, Seattle Parks Sr. Landscape Architect/Project Manager  
**Also in attendance:** Don Allen, Parks North Central Crew Chief, and seven community members

### **Welcome**

After welcoming and introductions, the meeting ground rules were noted (back of agenda).

**Meeting Purpose:** Tonight's meeting will introduce the project ideas, scope and priorities.

### **Project Overview**

Randy gave a brief overview of the history of the project that was called the Burke Gilman University Area Improvements in original language of the Pro Parks Levy of 2000.

Pablo, a longtime activist with the park noted that the park had a different name when the park was conceived in the early 1980s.

Randy gave an explanation of the how decisions are made on Park projects and the factors that may have an impact on the outcome of the project. The opportunities for public input are in the early phases of the project with the final decision being made by Parks (with lots of input from SDOT). This information is on a handout at the front table.

Next, the project budget and schedule were discussed. The budget is about \$127,000 which amounts to about \$75,000 in construction funds that will be spread pretty thin on this project. Parks plans on building the project in the fall of 2007 (see schedule handout).

### **Site Analysis**

Randy displayed the Site Analysis drawing and site photographic board showing the Peace Park existing site conditions. The property is Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) property which Seattle Parks maintains by way of an agreement between the two departments.

Pablo pointed out that his understanding was that the property was actually transferred to Parks and that the "park" was supposed to include the triangular properties (with bus stop). Leo thought that Metro maintained the triangles of land. Randy responded that SDOT has kept ownership of the property and that Parks has never considered the triangles part of the "park". But, Randy will look into the paper trail that explains in more detail the real park boundary. The Parks Department wants to limit the definition of Peace Park to the east end of the site (survey drawing shows only the east end) and return the responsibility of the west end to SDOT. The west end of the site does not have park-like qualities and is not related to the peace message and sculptural quality of the east end of the site.

### **Concerns and Constraints**

Several site conditions were discussed in depth with some extensive comments from citizens present on the following main concerns:

- **SAFETY** – Comments included providing safe crossing for park visitors, including children from the Friends Meeting Hall to Peace Park. The path that leads down to the crosswalk at lower 40<sup>th</sup> Street with the timber stairs and steep slope that bikes use is very hazardous at 40<sup>th</sup> Street – the sight lines are very poor at this location and bikes and runners do not know the risk. The steep slopes are also a concern where people might fall over the slope edge into the bushes.
- **ADA ACCESS** – This is one of the prime focuses of the project. Currently, the park is not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal law. The sculptural elements, including the Sadako sculpture is not accessible, the two sculptural benches are not accessible, there is no ADA parking, and none of the pathways are accessible.

- **PATHWAYS** – The pathway system in Peace Park is chaotic. Main pathway is inadequate and informal trails have developed in several places. The circulation system has evolved as the park is used.
- **PARKING** – The informal and illegal parking is a troublesome aspect of the site. Neighbors have indicated to Pablo that the parking is important to them. Parks does not want to be responsible for maintaining the parking area and will continue to try to get SDOT to resolve the issue. Parks wants to provide an ADA parking stall and one stall for Parks maintenance vehicles.
- **BUS PARKING** – Merlin commented that school buses and tour buses (with Japanese tourists) are visiting the park and there is no place to park and unload visitors. She suggested that the south edge of the south branch of 40<sup>th</sup> Street could be used as temporary bus parking. This lane is being used as a bike lane that is redundant to the Burke Gilman Trail, only a few feet away. Randy agreed to discuss this with SDOT – Peter Lagerwey is the bicycle coordinator with SDOT and is fully aware of this area.
- **SIGNAGE** – Signage could also help with the safety of children and adults crossing the street as well as directing people to the park. Randy will discuss signage with SDOT because they have some regulations about sign format, etc.
- One citizen reported that Safeco had once said that they would provide more funding for the park. Randy will contact Safeco Foundation.

**Safety, access, and parking** emerged as the main priorities expressed at this meeting.

At this point in the meeting, 7:10 pm the entire group (except for one citizen) went outside, across the street to Peace Park to discuss other site conditions.

#### **Other Site Concerns:**

- Grass in the area by the bridge entrance never grows well (too shady) – this area had been used for the picnic table that has since been removed. Seating in the shade might be nice on hot days (like today! – 98 degrees).
- Floyd Schmoe had originally wanted a “natural look” to the park with native plants. Randy responded that Seattle Parks has done a lot of native planting and is generally supportive of native planting but that maintenance of any new planting may be a problem.
- Water for volunteer use for planting irrigation. New irrigation quick couplers (hose connections) may be installed as part of this project, but probably not a full irrigation system.
- Area by bridge abutment has concrete posts that would lend itself to a handrail construction.
- Make sure that all of the plaques in the park are visible. Randy will try to find the plaque in the bushes and uncover it again.
- The granite rocks placed, sometimes vertically, are not significant from a standpoint of the mission of the park. However, some of the rocks came from Floyd Schmoe’s yard and possibly from Hiroshima, Japan. Parks Dept. may need to relocate rocks to make the pathways work.
- The main path should be away from the edge of 40<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Can the Park sign (rainbow sign) be moved? Randy will consider other locations for the sign.

#### **Meeting Wrap up**

At 7:45, the meeting was adjourned. Randy stated that he would have a project sign installed in the park that would have updated information about the project including a design plan. This design plan could be viewed by all park users. Randy can be reached by mail, e-mail, or phone with comments.

#### **Future information:**

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<http://www.seattle.gov/parks/proparks/projects/burkeGilman.htm>